

More troops deployed in Beirut

BEIRUT, Feb. 6 (R). — Reinforcement troops were sent to Beirut over the weekend following a recent spate of bomb explosions in the city. Estimates of the number of troops involved varied from 1,200 to 2,000. No official comment was available from the Arab League Peace Force. The sources said the reinforcements had been prompted by three explosions in as many days last week in the city centre. One person was killed and 20 were wounded in the blasts. Troops armed with automatic rifles set up saw road blocks on both sides of the former front line between predominantly Moslem western Beirut and the Christian east.

Volume 3, Number 671

Badran: Palestinians must play "full role" in peace negotiations

AMMAN, Feb. 6 (Agencies). — Prime Minister Mudar Badran stated today that this country would not settle for less than a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories in any Middle East peace settlement.

Mr. Badran, who was explaining Jordan's position on a Middle East peace to a visiting Soviet tourist delegation, also said any such withdrawal should include Arab Jerusalem.

Jordan insisted that the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be restored and wanted a just and comprehensive settlement which respected the sovereignty and security of all states in the area, he added.

Mr. Badran, whose remarks were published by the official Jordan News Agency, said Jordan would not support the Palestinians in any talks which concerned the Palestine issue.

"The Palestinian people should play its full role and through Palestinian representatives in any talks which aim at solving the Palestinian issue with all its ramifications," Mr. Badran said.

Mr. Badran expressed satisfaction with Jordan's relations with the Soviet Union and his appreciation of what he described as the position of the Soviet Union on the Middle East question, especially in its capacity as co-chairman of the Geneva peace conference.

Mr. Badran said that "Jordan is convinced that if Israel continues its intransigence and deception... the area and the entire world will face great dangers."

The leader of the delegation, Mr. Sergei Nikitin, head of foreign tourism in the Soviet Union, expressed his country's support for Jordan's position and called for total Israeli withdrawal from Arab land and for a restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Brzezinski favours arms sales to Egypt

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (R). — President Carter's national security adviser said in an interview published yesterday that the administration will have to give very serious consideration to President Anwar Sadat's request for U.S. arms.

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, in a copyrighted interview in the weekly magazine U.S. News and World Report, said: "I think we'll have to give very serious consideration. After all, what is important is to avoid the situation which the Egyptian military has to Sadat and say: 'You've burned your bridges with the Soviets, and now you have to turn left in a defenceless position.'"

Dr. Brzezinski, head of the White House National Security Council, added: "I don't think that's in our interest. I don't think that's in Israel's interest."

President Sadat called for sophisticated U.S. weapons including F-5E fighters after he broke off political negotiations with Israel last month.

According to informed sources, the Pentagon, the State Department and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency recently told President Carter they have no objection to the sale of about 50 F-5E to Egypt.

In the interview, Dr. Brzezinski said he hoped the Carter administration could reactivate the negotiating process between President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and widen it to involve the Jordanians and moderate "Palestinians."

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

AMMAN, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1978 — SAFAR 29, 1398

Jordan will join peace talks if...

AMMAN, Feb. 6 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview with a West German weekly today that if Egypt and Israel agree on a declaration of principles stipulating Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognising Palestinian rights then Jordan would be ready to take part in the peace negotiations "along with the other Arab parties concerned."

The King told Der Spiegel that the holy city of Jerusalem must be returned to Arab sovereignty and the Palestinians must be allowed to exercise the right of self-determination following Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. He noted that one peace proposal was for a federation with Jordan.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.



President Carter (second from left) shares a joke with Mrs. Jihan Sadat and President Sadat (far right) watched by First Lady Rosalynn Carter on their return to the White House from talks at Camp David, Maryland on Sunday.

Ogaden shelling drives Somalis back

MADAWEIN, ETHIOPIA, Feb. 6 (R). — Somali guerrillas have retreated from several positions around the strategic city of Harar after heavy strikes by Ethiopian jets and artillery, a commander of Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) said: "We have made tactical

withdrawals here and there."

These were "forced by enormous military bombardments directed by Soviet and Cuban military personnel," he said.

He said that since last week, Ethiopian jets have been strafing and bombing WSLF forces fighting to hold rocky, dry hillsides between Harar and the Gara Marda pass, the most crucial stretch of territory in the Ogaden war.

He outlined his case against Israel in a speech to the National Press Club after meeting Jewish leaders here this morning.

President Sadat said it was a fallacy to claim, as Israel had done, that the creation of a Palestinian state meant the destruction of the Jewish state.

"A Palestinian state, linked with Jordan, will be a positive force for stability and normalcy in the area," he declared. "Without it the structure of peace will remain vulnerable."

Sadat: Palestinian state will be a force of stability

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (R). — President Anwar Sadat said today he would give peace every possible chance despite obstacles he accused Israel of erecting in Middle East peace negotiations.

But he declared that Israel was hardening its position and had embarked on a course that encouraged lawlessness, anarchy and aggression.

The Egyptian leader, who held talks with President Carter at the weekend, appealed to Americans to support his demands for an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and for creation of a Palestinian state.

He accused Israel of "sheer defiance and escalation" in creating new civilian settlements and expanding existing settlements in occupied Arab territory.

"The Israeli government cannot hide behind fanatic groups which are beating the drums of war in their feverish campaign to build these settlements," Mr. Sadat said.

A White House statement last night indicated that President Carter had succeeded in deflecting President Sadat from his avowed intention of trying to persuade the United States to force Israeli concessions for a comprehensive settlement.

President Sadat was sombre as he answered questions, in a television interview last night, on what appeared to be a difficult series of weekend talks at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland.

Syria receives Franco-German missiles

BONN, Feb. 6 (R). — France and West Germany are jointly supplying Syria with anti-tank missiles worth a total of 500 million marks (\$240 million), the weekly magazine Der Spiegel reported yesterday.

DAYAN ADMITS ISRAEL SELLS ARMS TO ETHIOPIA

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (AP). — Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said Monday that Israel was selling weapons to Ethiopia in that country's war against Somalia, Israel Radio reported.

Mr. Dayan told Israel Radio reporter Micha Imor in Zurich that Israel was not supplying manpower or planes, but said "We are selling some arms to Ethiopia."

Mr. Dayan said that, in his opinion, there was no reason to hide Israel's activities in Ethiopia. Israel wanted friendship with Ethiopia, and one of the reasons for this was their control of the approaches to the Red Sea. The route for oil tankers on their way to Israel.

Shiloh settlement rakes up controversy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 6 (R). — A small band of extremists from the Gush Emunim movement turned archaeologists today kept international attention focussed on the delicate question of Jewish settlement on occupied Arab territories.

"They are not settlers," Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan told reporters before flying off on a mission abroad.

"Yes we are settlers," insisted the 20 or so Israeli ultra-nationalists digging away at the site of biblical Shiloh about 25 kms. north of Jerusalem.

Mr. Dayan reiterated the rules laid down by Prime Minister Menachem Begin -- that new Jewish settlements would for the time being be permitted only inside existing Israeli army camps.

The diggers at Shiloh are patently outside any army camp perimeter and yet have firmly declared themselves a settlement.

The cabinet devoted some time to the matter yesterday and its spokesman, Arye Naor, afterwards announced that no action would be taken against the Shiloh diggers unless they contravened the conditions of the archaeological permit.

Taxed with the "archaeologists' own public statements that they were not archaeologists at all," Mr. Naor said: "This is a free country. People can say whatever they like."

Last night Mr. Begin told the executive of his own Herut Party that his administration had approved the establishment of 13 settlements in the past six months.

Israeli police break up Nablus protest

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6 (R). — Israeli security forces yesterday broke up a demonstration by Nablus youths in the occupied West Bank who were protesting against Jewish settlements in the area and against President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative.

Shouting anti-Israel and anti-Sadat slogans, groups of young people moved through the town centre and tried to get shopowners to close down.

Israeli security forces rushed the demonstrators and arrested a number of them.

New satellite will beam Pan-Arab T.V. to remotest corners

By Ian Kellie special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab satellite project launched two years ago now well off the ground. Consultants will finally be chosen this month and the "Arab" satellite should be floating in the sky by 1980.

It will be the first regional communications project in space telecommunications in the world, as Mr. Mohammad Shihab, Arab League Secretary-General, said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

It is at present. Community Television (CTV) will be able to reach to every house... no matter how remote it is," Mr. Ismail said.

A comparatively cheap reception dish (which can be locally manufactured) is all that will be required to pick up Arabat's signals. You could even have CTV before you have electricity -- using solar energy.

It will be possible for a single country to hire one of Arabat's "transponders" (sets of channels) to use for its own national programmes. This for instance might be attractive to the Sudan where to install nationwide television is otherwise a daunting prospect.

It is only through telecommunications," Mr. Ismail asserted, "that the real unity of the Arab countries can be realized economically, socially, in every respect."

Not for spying

The satellite will not be used for military purposes, Mr. Ismail said.

"This is purely, 100 per cent civilian."

Space technology is in fact "one of the fruits of the adventures of the military and of competition to reach the moon."

But a data-collecting satellite would require quite different equipment.

Arabat will be able to make use of the very best possible technology thanks to earlier space research.

"This is where a lot of people were mistaken when they said: How can we benefit... what is the advantage of getting to the moon?" Mr. Ismail said.

"The satellite itself when it is finally set in its orbit is relatively free from any environmental effects if we compare it with equipment working within the earth's atmosphere."

It has a life expectancy of at least ten years and this might be lengthened if the solar cells and batteries which power it are improved.

Three satellites are actually involved in the project: one operating and one standing by in space and the third in readiness on the ground. Each satellite has between 12 and 14 transponders. One transponder can be used alternatively for one T.V. channel or for about 400 telephone channels (the theoretical maximum is just under 1,000). This means that in theory, if it turned all its transponders over to telephony using the distance direct dialling (DDD) system, Arabat could relay about 8,000 telephone calls all at the same time. Alternatively you can use one telephone to send 24 telexes.

Following studies by both the International and the Arab Telecommunications Unions (ITU and ATU) the project was declared about two years ago to be feasible without any doubt. Since the Arabat, whose full title is the Arab Satellite Communications Organization, has established its headquarters in Riyadh.

Arab League member states, who wish to participate are represented in Arabat's General Assembly by their ministers of communications. There is also a Board of Directors, composed of five permanent members -- the biggest contributors to the project (Saudi Arabia, Libya, Egypt, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates) and four elected members of whom Jordan is one at present.

16 Arab states have now approved the agreement and paid five per cent of their share of the \$100 million capital needed to float the project (final costs are now estimated at closer to \$160 million). Shares are divided proportionally to the amount of usage envisaged for each country.

Arabat is intended to be a profit-making corporation. Saudi Arabia at present dominates the scheme with a 26.2 per cent share while Jordan's share is 3.3 per cent.

The satellite's ground control with tracking, telemetry and command (TTC) functions will be established in Saudi Arabia, although the satellite itself will probably be launched from Cape Kennedy in the U.S. The biggest computer required for the project is already available in Saudi Arabia and has not been included in the cost estimates.

Mr. Ismail has recently returned from the fifth session of the Board of Directors in Riyadh. A general manager has been appointed and after putting out tenders for consultancy in May 1977 the corporation has now drawn up a short list of three consultant consortiums in order of merit.

Short list named

Mr. Ismail revealed that these are: The AEA group (Arab European and American); Teleset (of Canada) together with Cable and Wireless; and Comsat General (of the U.S.). No Eastern bloc country has been in competition. The final selection will be made by a four-member committee chaired by Saudi Arabia after Feb. 15 of this year.

The consultancy contract is worth between \$16 million and \$26 million. Among the functions will be to run a training programme (for about a year) for the satellite's operators. Mr. Ismail is confident that the Arab world will have no difficulty in finding the technology capable of running the station. Jordan itself has been operating a Standard A earth station with Intelsat for seven years.

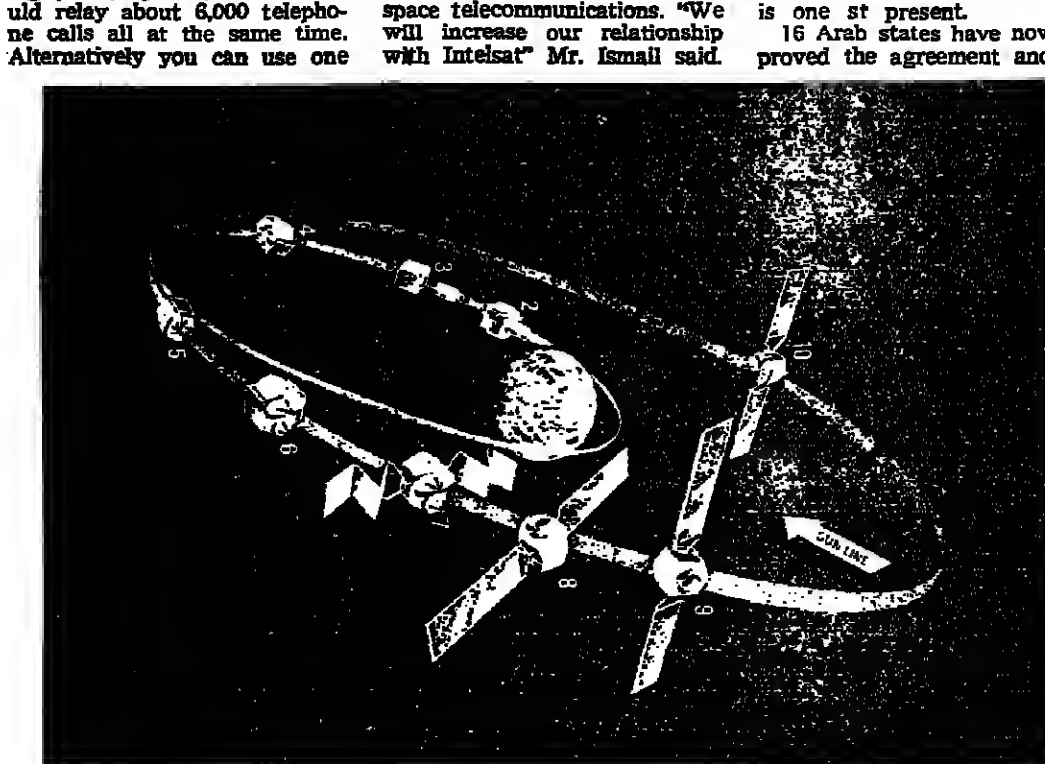
Arabat seems like a big project. But to put it in perspective: Saudi Arabia alone is undertaking telecommunications development reportedly due to cost \$3.5 billion.

"At the moment we have foreseen projects in telecommunications for Jordan only, of \$100 million for the next five years," Mr. Ismail said.

"Many other projects will probably evolve out of (Arabat)," Mr. Ismail went on.

"In future the Corporation will act as a consulting body in space technology to all Arab countries."

The satellite is in fact merely a subsidiary project of a comprehensive Arab "master plan" in telecommunications, but in the days when space operations have put flying carpets into the shade, it is one which seems likely to seize the popular imagination.



The satellite is launched and is placed in a "stationary" orbit above a position on the equator at a longitude of 10 degrees W, in this artist's impression provided by Hawker-Siddeley Dynamics Ltd.

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JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Prince Hassan urges stronger trade links

AMMAN, Feb. 6 (JNA). — The forty-fifth session of the council of the pan-Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Union ended here today.

Among the Council's recommendations was to amend the Union's statute concerning its aims and cooperation with the Arab League, Arab economic organizations, Union membership, and ways of developing links which similar international organizations.

The Council also recommen-

ded setting up a reserve fund to meet its commitments in the event of delay or non-regular payment of subscriptions or the need for an emergency budget.

The Council decided that the fund's capital would be 1.1 million to be shared by the member countries.

It was also decided to transfer the presidency of the union council to the Saudi Arabian chambers of commerce.

Delegations from 14 Arab countries visited Jordan for the

meeting in Amman, in addition to Jordan.

His Highness Crown Prince Hassan earlier in the morning met with a number of the Arab delegations which participated in the council of the Council of the Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Union and expressed his appreciation of efforts being made for promotion of Arab economic and security integration.

His Highness called for strengthening contacts between Arab and international chambers of commerce.

U.S. action group focusses attention on plight of student held in Israel

This report is supplied by the Palestine Human Rights Campaign of 1322, 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, USA.

This is the first of a regular series of such articles, notices and updates that the Jordan Times will be publishing to publicize Israeli violations of the human rights of Arab citizens living under Israeli occupation.

Sami Esmail, a New York-born US citizen of Palestinian origin, arrested upon arriving in Israel Dec. 21, charges Israeli authorities with torturing him under interrogation.

According to a sworn affidavit by his brother Basim, Sami Esmail, a student at Michigan State University, was on his way to the Israeli-occupied West Bank to visit his dying father, a naturalized American citizen, when arrested at Ben Gurion Airport.

When his brother Basim and lawyer Felicia Langer visited him in prison on Dec. 28, Sami Esmail was in weak physical condition as a result of his hunger strike in protest of his arrest and seven days of physical and psychological torture.

He claims to have been: punched repeatedly in the stomach and chest, spat upon while forced to carry a heavy chair for long periods of time, forced to stand naked while his interrogators threatened him with further physical harm, denied more than two consecutive hours of sleep in seven days, interrogated by three different groups of interrogat-

ors for up to twenty-four hours. Despite his harsh treatment, Sami Esmail continually denied the Israeli authorities' accusations of being on a mission for an illegal organization and insisted that he was in Israel only to visit his dying father.

ISRAEL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Although Sami Esmail's lawyer submitted a letter of protest on Dec. 30 concerning the torture to the US Embassy in Tel Aviv to be submitted to the State Department, Department official Kenneth Brown maintained as of Jan. 13 that the Department had no information regarding Sami's torture. When Basim Esmail spoke to American Consul, James Kerr, Jr. in Tel Aviv, Kerr advised against requesting an official US protest to the Israeli government because "they would probably torture your bro-

ther more if we sent it." "Besides," Kerr added, "what government doesn't torture its prisoners?" The Israeli government, furthermore, denied an International Red Cross representative's request to visit Sami Esmail.

The Palestine Human Rights Campaign (PHRC), a national coalition concerned with human rights for Palestinians, has called for Sami Esmail's immediate release and an investigation into the charges of torture. Dr. James Zogby, PHRC national chairperson, stated "We are appalled by the matter-of-fact attitude of the State Department towards Israel's arrest and alleged torture of US citizen Sami Esmail. Last July the London Sunday Times charged Israel with systematic torture of Palestinian prisoners. Now, apparently, torture is being used against an American citizen of Palestinian background who is charged with no crime. The State Department has a special responsibility to defend a US citizen brutalized in a country so heavily subsidized by the United States."

Basim Esmail and Attorney Abdeen Jabara were in Washington, DC on Jan. 20 to meet with State Department officials and members of Congress about Sami Esmail's case. A US National Committee to Defend Sami Esmail has been set up with Professor John Merson of Michigan State University as chairperson.

Momentum, again.

The news that the United States is to resume its shuttle diplomacy between Egypt and Israel to bring about agreement on a declaration of principles for a peace settlement is something of a mixed blessing. On the one hand, it is welcomed if it will lead to the emergence of a middle ground between the two parties, leading to an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory and a recognition of Palestinian national rights. But on the other hand, to resort to this dramatic diplomatic mechanism now is a sign of failure on two counts -- on the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, and on the Americans' mediating role to date. Our fear is that the shuttle diplomacy show will be mistaken for an illusion of progress where no real progress exists, and will only reinforce the feeling among many people that mere momentum is a good enough substitute for real progress. This is a fool's paradise.

One has to feel that within this context, the resort to shuttle diplomacy now is a sign of regression. After all, the whole point of the Egyptian initiative was that it tackled head on Israeli complaints that the Arabs refused to sit down and negotiate. To substitute U.S. State Department jet setting for the direct talks is not an act that makes one hopeful. And it probably signals the initial reversal of the process of breaking down psychological barriers that President Sadat so bravely undertook last November.

Yet, despite all this, Mr. Sadat has started something that he would find difficult to halt as decisively as he initiated it. He knows that reactivating the American shuttle tactics will only further inflame his Arab critics, but he seems determined to give his peace drive one last try. If that is what he is indeed doing, and his aim is a comprehensive peace agreement based on known Arab principles, he must know that it is hard for others to deny him that try, but hard for others also to see much hope in view of the Israeli position to date as well as the dangerous penchant to keep striving for momentum as a substitute for progress.

Mixed reaction from teaching body to new semester system

Following his report in last Friday's Jordan Times, on the new educational system introduced last year, Daoud Omar Daoud today reported on the reactions to the new system of staff at some of Amman's schools.

By Daoud Omar Daoud

The Principal of Al Taj Secondary School, Miss Aisha Hijazi, told the Jordan Times that in her opinion "the new semester system in Jordan is in the interests of students."

"The quality of education will improve because the unneeded pressure of the old system has diminished, now," she said.

"There will be room for concentration on the material." She added that the new system "makes students rely on themselves."

One of the things teacher Miss Iham Fathy liked about the new system was giving 30 per cent of the final grade to activities, general conduct, and participation of students in class. This, she would give them an opportunity to be credited for things that were not taken into consideration in the past. Miss Fathy also said that the grading system now is much easier than it was before and requires less time and effort on the part of teachers that could be directed to helping students.

Miss Samiha Krasha was less satisfied. She said that "self-motivation" in modern education does not work because of the distractions of modern life. She added that a bad feature of the new system was giving 30 per cent of the final grade to the teacher's evaluation of the students. This, she said, "gives the personal relationship between the teacher and the student high importance." "But who could be sure of a just evaluation of students? Emotions would be a main factor," she said.

Another teacher, Miss Fariza Haniyeh, however, thought that it was easier now that the school year was divided into two separate semesters, with separate grades. This, she said, "would lead students to concentrate on the material in each semester." At the same time, it would give the student with a low grade in the first semester a chance to advance and improve in the second semester.

The Principal of Abdul Jabbar Al Fakhri Preparatory School for Boys, Mr. Kather Salama, who told the Jordan Times that "the problem with education in Jordan rests not in the new or old system; but in the bad conditions of the educational institutions, and their lack of facilities."

The new semester system in Jordan would lead, in his opinion, to "confusion because the system originally was used in a different society and different environment."

Mr. Salama called on the Ministry of Education to give more authority to principals to deal with the problems in their own schools.

Mr. Rihy Aref, a teacher in the same school, thought that the retraining session the Ministry of Education offered for one day was "not enough," to acquaint teachers with the new system.

But at the same time, he said that one positive aspect of the semester system in Jordan was that it put less emphasis on exams and grades and placed more emphasis on the educational process itself. In neighbouring Yarmouk Hashem Elementary School for Boys, Principal Mr. Mahmoud Fadda, asserted that the new

system here "was introduced without enough study and preparation." He added that the plans are still not clear.

Mr. Fadda also said that because the new semester system does not place much importance on home-work, it would lead to more "lack of co-operation between the home and the school." He added, however, that the ideas behind the semester system were good. The problem was in introducing those ideas into our society.

National News Roundup

ILO OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR VISIT

AMMAN, Feb. 6 (JNA). — The Assistant Director General of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Dr. Saleh Burqan, accompanied by the Organisation's Regional Representative, Philip Agaravi arrived here today from Beirut on a four-day visit to Jordan within a tour of the area on promoting support by countries in the area for the ILO. The Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni later told Dr. Burqan that the Jordanian government has been advised to increase Jordan's contribution in the ILO's budget.

ERITREAN LEADER LEAVES

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — President of the Central Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front Uthman S. Sahbi left here today after a week-long visit to Jordan during which he met with several top ranking officials and representatives of the Islamic and popular organisations and acquainted them with the current situation in Eritrea and the Horn of Africa.

PRINCE RA'AD VISITS BLIND IN CENTRAL DESERT

AMMAN, Feb. 6 (JNA). — Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zeid, the honorary President of the Society for Friendship with the Blind today visited villages of the central desert to look into conditions of the blind there. His tour included villages of Sahab, Al Muwaqqer, Khureibet Al Souq, Al Jizeh, Hisban, Ma'in, Jureineh and Shawabkeh. Prince Ra'ad was accompanied on the tour by Director of Social Affairs Department, Khaled Al Radaydeh.

SHARIF FAWWAZ OPENS ART EXHIBITION

AMMAN, Feb. 6 (JNA). — The Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf today opened an exhibition of Islamic ornamentation held by the Department of Culture and Art in cooperation with the German Cultural Centre. The opening ceremony was attended by the West German ambassador, Director of the Goethe Institute besides artists and Islamic heritage lovers.

HUJAZ RAILWAY COMMITTEE AGREE ON PREQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

AMMAN, Feb. 6 (JNA). — Jordan's delegation to the meeting of the technical committee of the Hujaz railway which took place at Riyadh last week, returned here Sunday. The Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and head of the delegation, Hashem Al Taher said that the committee representing Saudi Arabia, Syria and Jordan agreed on the procedure of pre-qualification of the consultative firms, preliminary to selection of the most qualified to undertake the economic, social and technical feasibility study of the project to restore the railway line. The committee will meet again on April 10 in Riyadh to study of the pre-qualification questionnaires. Mr. Al Taher said.

MOBILE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES FOR MA'AN, MAFRAQ AND JERASH

AMMAN, Feb. 6 (JNA). — An agreement for importing and installing three mobile telephone exchanges in Ma'an, Mafraq and Jerash was signed over the weekend between Jordan and a British firm. Costs of importing and installing the three exchanges will be around JD 370,000. The new exchanges, each containing 1,000 telephone numbers will convert telephone services in the three towns from manual to automatic operation, a source in the Telecommunications corporation stated. The agreement was signed for the government by the Minister of Communications Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and for the British firm by its director general.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I, on Monday, said Arab peace assumptions were based on emotional evaluations and these alone decided that the United States "holds 99 per cent of the cards" for a solution to the Middle East conflict. The U.S. has continually said it cannot and will not pressure Israel but the Arabs preferred not to believe it. Now that the Sadat-Carter talks end with a clear admission that nothing new can be hoped for, it becomes clear that Arab dependence on the U.S. was futile. Since only Israel gains from this hopeless situation the Arabs must look for the party which really holds 99 per cent of the key cards. Who knows, such cards may be unevenly spread over Arab capitals.

AL DUSTOUR said reports from Washington on the Sadat-Carter talks do not allow much in the way of optimism. The Americans now, more than ever, feel the weight of President Sadat's peace efforts and the weight of the responsibility he put on U.S. shoulders. Considering the military and oil-finance vacuum which the area is entering as a result of Egypt's peace drive it seems the U.S. has one of two intentions when it speaks of the need for an Egyptian-Israeli moderation to allow the U.S. to work further for peace. The two intentions are either a third "Sinal disengagement" on the lines of a Kissingerian step-by-step Middle East solution or to push President Sadat into renouncing his insistence on a solution for Israeli settlements in Sinai such that the focus is placed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in preparation for "luring" another Arab party into the peace talks to shoulder some of the burden which President Sadat now carries alone.

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Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF COMPANY	Nominal share value	Volume traded	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
1. Housing Bank	JD 1,000	105	1.000	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.000	1.050
2. Industrial Commercial Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	349	2.200	2.200	2.200	2.200	—	—
3. Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	368	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.350	1.350	—
4. Jordan Textile	JD 1,000	190	0.900	0.950	0.950	0.950	—	1.000
5. Paper and Cardboard	JD 1,000	191	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	—	1.050
6. Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	4,774	6.900	6.950	6.900	6.950	6.900	6.950
Total volume traded, Monday, Feb. 6: JD 5,977.								

Cinema critics wanted

The Jordan Times is looking for a qualified film critic to review films that are screened in Amman, both in the commercial cinemas as well as the cultural centres. We would like someone with previous experience in writing film reviews, and a proven expertise in the field of cinema and the performing arts in general. The position would probably involve writing one or two reviews per month, perhaps increasing to three or four per month with time. Interested persons who have the above qualifications and are interested in writing reviews for the Jordan Times should contact Mr. Khouri by telephone at the Jordan Times, at 67171, any time between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and between 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Jordan Times welcomes letters from its readers commenting on material published in the newspaper or on any matter of public interest. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and preferably not longer than 300 words. They will be edited only for style and grammatical purposes, and letters longer than 300 words may be shortened at the editor's discretion.

Letters should be sent by mail to: the Editor, the Jordan Times, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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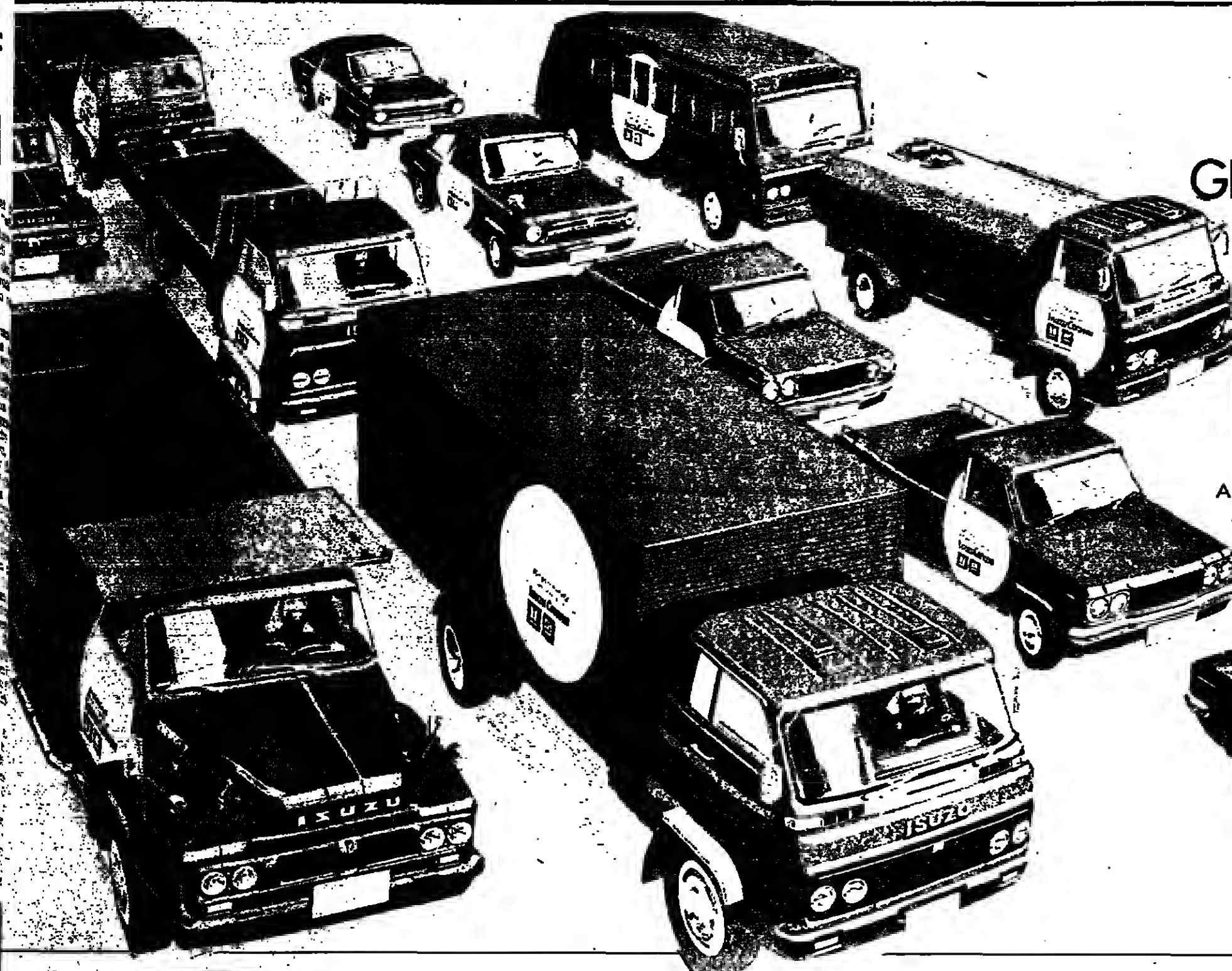
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Prospects for left victory send French franc to record low

PARIS, Feb. 6 (R). — The French franc dropped to a record low against the German mark and the Swiss franc today as prospects of a leftwing victory in next month's general election remained strong. Dealers quoted the mark at 233/234 francs against 232/233 late on Friday, while the Swiss franc rose to 250/252 from 248/250 before the weekend.

The French currency slipped to 492/93 against the dollar and the Bank of France was reported selling dollars to ease pressure on the franc.

The size of today's initial bank support was not immediately clear. But it was estimated to have spent some \$200 million by Friday, two days after the run on the franc began.

Prime Minister Raymond Barre said in a campaign speech on Friday the government would intervene to limit any further drop in the franc's value when the foreign exchange reopened today. He said, "The government is responsible for

the currency, so it will make sure there is not too serious a drop."

But M. Barre said his intention to support the franc seemed to have had little effect on the market.

The foreign exchange's reaction last week suited politicians of the ruling centre-right coalition, who were quick to contend that the market jitters showed how foreign opinion would react if the left won.

But Socialist leader Francois Mitterrand accused M. Barre of encouraging speculation against the franc to score election campaign points, and blamed the government's economic policies for the fall.

Polls favour left

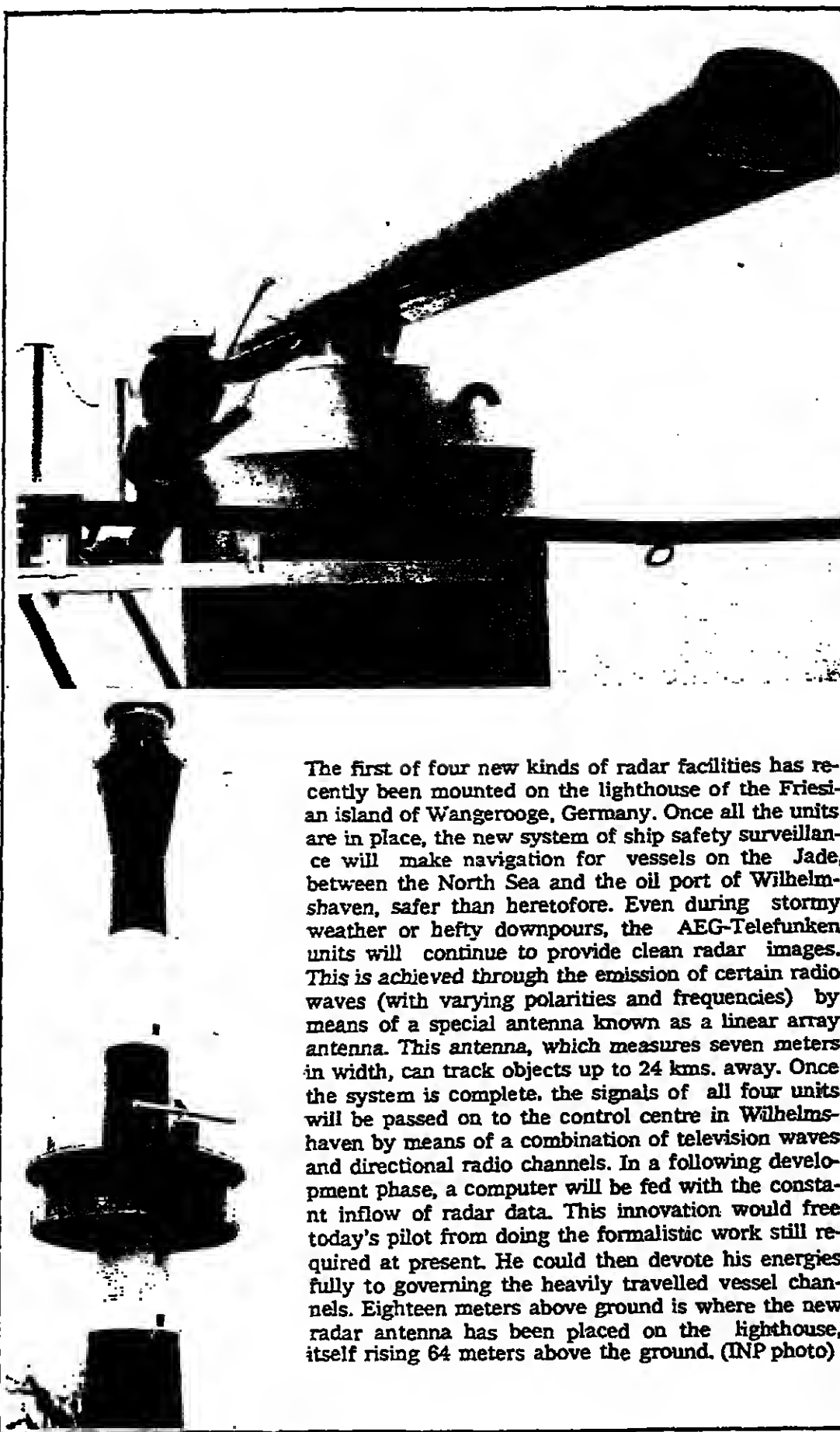
The latest public opinion poll, published in the socialist daily *Le Matin* on Saturday, gave Socialists, Communists and Leftwing Radicals a total of 51 per cent of the vote against 45 per cent for the government parties. This would give the left a parliamentary majority of 19.

While these findings were similar to those of other pollsters in recent weeks, the latest poll did highlight what could be a significant change of attitude among Socialist voters.

Under France's two-tier voting system, a run-off ballot is held in constituencies where no candidate achieves an absolute majority in the first round, and many seats depend on how supporters of beaten candidates vote the second time round.

Saturday's poll showed that 56 per cent of socialist voters would support a Communist candidate in a run-off against a Gaullist, compared with 46 per cent last month.

The same proportion of Socialists would back a Communist against a Giscardian or Centrist candidate. Three per cent more than the previous poll's findings.



The first of four new kinds of radar facilities has recently been mounted on the lighthouse of the Friesian island of Wangerooge, Germany. Once all the units are in place, the new system of ship safety surveillance will make navigation for vessels on the Jade, between the North Sea and the old port of Wilhelmshaven, safer than heretofore. Even during stormy weather or heavy downpours, the AEG-Telefunken units will continue to provide clear radar images. This is achieved through the emission of certain radio waves (with varying polarities and frequencies) by means of a special antenna known as a linear array antenna. This antenna, which measures seven meters in width, can track objects up to 24 kms. away. Once the system is complete, the signals of all four units will be passed on to the control centre in Wilhelmshaven by means of a combination of television waves and directional radio channels. In a following development phase, a computer will be fed with the constant inflow of radar data. This innovation would free today's pilot from doing the formalistic work still required at present. He could then devote his energies fully to governing the heavily travelled vessel channels. Eighteen meters above ground is where the new radar antenna has been placed on the lighthouse, itself rising 64 meters above the ground. (INP photo)

CIA cuts estimate of Saudi Arabia's oil output capacity

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 (R). — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has sharply cut its estimate of Saudi Arabia's oil producing capacity, the Washington Post reported yesterday.

According to the CIA's latest calculations, the paper also said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is pumping up its oil at a rate far closer to its limit than was previously thought.

The Post added, however that government and oil company experts are sceptical about the CIA's new figures. A CIA spokesman, contacted by Reuters, refused to confirm or deny the Post's report.

According to the newspaper, the CIA now estimates Saudi production capacity at 8.8 million barrels of oil a day.

Last year it publicly put the figure at 11.5 million barrels. The unused production capacity of OPEC nations is now calculated by the CIA at 2.5 million barrels a day the Post said. Last year the CIA said OPEC was producing 9.4 million barrels a day less than it could.

OPEC nations produced about 31 million barrels of oil a day last year.

The Washington Post said the CIA's secret analysis showed:

... Political constraints will increasingly move the Saudi rulers to place more weight on arguments that their oil is worth more in the ground for future production than it is produced for Western markets.

... Financial outlays needed to increase production are considered by some Saudis to be too high and not worth spending.

Technical problems, due in part to a failure to upgrade pumps, waterflooding and other field equipment, have resulted in loss of pressure and production in some wells.

Shah reschedules Pakistani debt, offers to finance Indian projects

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Feb. 6 (R). — The Shah of Iran agreed to reschedule repayment of a \$570 million Iranian loan to Pakistan during a brief visit yesterday the country's military ruler Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq announced.

The Shah made a five-hour stop on his way home from a visit to India and conferred for an hour with Gen. Zia-ul-Haq.

The loan, made four years ago to support Pakistan's bal-

ance of payments after the world oil crisis, was due to be repaid later this year.

In New Delhi the Shah ended a four-day official visit to India with a generous offer to finance several important development projects.

The offer was contained in a joint communique issued yesterday which said Iran would supply crude oil to India in addition to its present commitment of 5.5 million tons to help raise rupees for these projects.

For international gangsters operating across the Swiss-Italian border business has never been brisker. With 20 m. Italians crossing the frontier posts in a year, it is not easy to sort out the criminals.

By Norris Willatt

LUGANO, (F.T.) — The borderland between Italy and Switzerland is in danger of turning into a wild West type frontier where mafiosi of all kinds flourish. Well maybe that's an exaggeration. But the growing use of the region by such people to plot their crimes and dispose of the proceeds is certainly upsetting the

Italian border police.

The environment of the region, alleges the border police report on 1977, is coming to represent an "osmosis of criminality", with the operation there of "international bands of swindlers, counterfeiters, robbers, kidnappers and similar delinquents." And that is not even counting the well established drug and contraband merchandise industry.

The Italian authorities are deeply concerned since they have reason to believe that most of the crimes of which they complain are committed in Italy; but the criminals tend to use nearby Switzerland as a haven from which to plot their coups, and as a hideout from which to dispose of the proceeds.

It is not secret that money from Italy has for many years been exported illegally to Switzerland by Italians worried about the economic and political outlook in their own country. The traffic is still flourishing in spite of the stricter penalties recently imposed in

Rome for violations of exchange control regulations.

International gangs

In more recent years, international gangs using Switzerland as a base have been suspected of masterminding much of the organised theft of Italian art treasures, and using the border as an entrepot from which to deliver these to wealthy collectors in all parts of the world. More serious crimes, including crimes of violence, are now said to be becoming frequent.

The Swiss, who traditionally have tended to regard tolerantly, and even benevolently, the smuggling of watches, cigarettes, coffee and other consumer goods across their border into Italy, are in their turn beginning to become alarmed. One very good reason is that the wave of violence in Italy is beginning to have repercussions across the border. In the growing incidence of armed robbery, holdups and similar crimes in adjoining Swiss communities, such as Lugano and Locarno, which pride themselves on their security and good order.

Volume of traffic

One of the problems of police forces in both countries is the sheer volume of human traffic between the two. In 1977, for example, some 20 m. Italians crossed the border in each direction to and from Switzerland. Comparable figures for foreigners entering and leaving Italy was 16 m. in each direction. Most of these people, most of the time, are residents of the respective frontier regions.

Obviously, it is impossible to check all these people individually, including examining

closely their identification papers and inspecting thoroughly the contents of their cars. This is true at any time of the year, but the problem increases enormously during the summer vacation season. At that time the local traffic is joined by a flood of tourists from northern Europe heading for holidays in sunny resorts south of the Alps. The vast number of vehicles, and the desire to be courteous to visitors impatient of delays, tends to make quite perfunctory the check on most travellers. It is at this period, the authorities believe, that the criminals thrive most.

Not all succeed

Still, not all the criminals get away with it all the time. According to the annual report bearing the signature of the head of the Italian border police for the region, Signor Antonio Allegre, during 1977 a total 187 persons were stopped and questioned by his men for various reasons. Of these 107 were subsequently charged with crimes, and 88 of them were extradited to countries of origin elsewhere. In addition, 390 foreigners were turned back at the frontier, 747 deported and 2,616 penalised for violations of Italian laws.

Typical hauls by the force during the year included 5,000 cartridges, 88 false 500 lire banknotes, and the unmasking of

an international band of criminals specialising in contract, blackmail and fraud.

These activities by the Italian authorities have had an echo in Swiss courts and police stations. In the month of December alone a number of criminal escapades were reported in the local press of Lugano and Locarno. Prison sentences were imposed in Locarno on members of a band of drug traffickers after the police had uncovered the largest cache of heroin ever to be smuggled into the area.

The Italian authorities have issued warrants for the arrest of two foreign exchange dealers charged with participation in the illegal export of capital, who are alleged to have taken refuge across the Swiss border.

Such cross-border capers are becoming more frequent, and indicate that the frontier has become open territory for criminals whose nationality is less significant than the fact that they act in collusion. In the most sensational and highly publicised crime of the year, a group of Italians kidnapped the son of a prominent Swiss merchant in Chisone, when his father took him for a regular riding lesson at a school just across the border in Italy. That time the youngster was unhurt. The police are hoping to make life so unpleasant for the international gangsters in the area that they will not be a next time.

— Financial Times News-Features

New U.S. labour legislation could give a big boost to unionisation

New labour legislation in the U.S. is expected to have considerable impact on some employers, particularly in the south, who have resisted unionisation attempts for many years. Their tactics included harassing and firing individual workers, stalling tactics, plant closings and blacklisting.

By Nancy Durne of the Financial Times, London

WASHINGTON, (F.T.) — "I'm scared every day I go in that plant, because I'm a strong union worker. I feel guilty, just sick to my gut, because when I go in there now, I don't know whether I am going to have a job or not. And I feel guilty about those that have been laid off, because I was one of the strong union workers that has got these people to sign up" worker at J. P. Stevens and Company plant in Montgomery, Alabama.

"In the summer of 1973, the Graphic Arts Union began to organise employees of the company, and I signed a union authorisation card... it was made known to us that anyone talking union would lose his job... the day after Christmas I was paid off" — worker at Amsterdam Printing, Amsterdam, New York.

"In January, 1973 I hurt my back at work. I was found to be disabled but the company contested my workers' compensation claim. It took me 17 weeks to get any benefits. In 1974 my doctor said I could return to work, but the com-

pany illegally refused to let me return" — union supporter at Dayton Tire Company, Dayton, Ohio.

Resistance to unionising

The parade of witnesses before the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labour Committee last July told tale after tale of attempts by companies to evade, stall or break worker attempts at unionisation.

Under committee consideration was the Carter administration labour-backed proposal to strengthen the 42-year old Wagner Act, which gave workers the right to organise and established the National Labour Relations Board (NLRB) to conduct union elections.

The labour reform proposals were first viewed in Washington as Jimmy Carter's pay-off for union support in the presidential campaign. As a southerner and never a strong union man, the president had only half-heartedly pledged to support union attempts to repeal the rights of states to forbid closed shops and legislation to allow picketing on construction sites. When these

two measures failed and the president supported a lower rise in the minimum wage that the unions were pushing for, Mr. Carter's popularity among organised workers — which was never fervent — plummeted.

To glue back together the labour-liberal-southern coalition which put the president in office, administration and labour representatives negotiated and packaged the proposed Labour Law Reform Act of 1977. The president backed it aggressively.

It passed the House in October by an impressive 257-163 vote and awaits action in the Senate, where the legislation's backers are expecting tougher resistance.

Considerable impact expected

National politics aside, the legislation, if passed, is expected to have considerable impact on some plants which have strongly resisted unionisation attempts for decades, particularly in the south. The tactics of resistance include harassing and firing of individual workers, legal manoeuvring and stalling tactics, plant closings and blacklisting.

Under present law, workers cannot be fired for participating in union activities. But if they are discharged, the severest penalty a company can incur is back payment of wages and orders to reinstate the fired employee. Workers must petition the NLRB, a process

which often takes years.

Under the proposed legislation employers would have to pay illegally fired workers double their back wages. And, possibly an even stronger weapon, the legislation forbids the awarding of federal contracts for three years to firms found to have willfully violated NLRB orders.

By law, union certification elections are supposed to be held once a union has the required support of 30 per cent of the employees in a workplace. But the companies, through petitions to the NLRB, can delay the election for years — until the unions run out of money or steam.

Foremost resister

One of the foremost resisters of organising attempts is J. P. Stevens and Company, the nation's second largest textile manufacturer, which has fought off unionisation attempts since 1963. Stevens has accumulated 15 NLRB findings that it has violated the law by refusing to bargain or by dismissing and intimidating workers and has been ordered to pay \$1.3 m. to fired employees. But the company's well publicised successes have spawned many imitators, particularly in the south, where so many other firms depend on relatively cheap, non-unionised labour.

The proposed legislation is designed to end the delaying tactics by requiring that un-

ion certifying elections be held from 25 to 75 days after petitions are filed with the NLRB. Appeals would be heard after the elections.

To streamline the NLRB decision-making process, the legislation would increase the size of the board from five to seven members and split the workload. Almost every year the backlog of cases before the NLRB mounts. The number of petitions filed before the board has risen dramatically from an estimated 16,000 in 1967 to about 50,000 in 1977.

The New York Times has editorially called the proposed reforms "not the outrage that business contends," but, predictably, most business groups disagree. The Chamber of Commerce is calling the legislation "an ill-advised attempt to further the interests of organised labour at the expense of individual workers' rights."

The National Action Committee, a coalition of business groups, says the changes would "increase union membership at the expense of due process."

News-Features

Soviet Union will finance South Yemen development projects

ADEN, Feb. 6 (R). — The Soviet Union will finance and carry out a number of development projects in South Yemen, Prime Minister Ali Nasser Mohammad said on his return here yesterday from visits to Moscow and Iraq.

He gave no details about the planned projects but said they were part of a new economic and technical cooperation agreement signed during his three-

day visit to the Soviet Union. He described the trip as a total success and said in a statement that views of South Yemen and the Soviet Union on all subjects discussed were identical.

A joint communique issued Saturday indicated the talks also dealt with the Somali-Ethiopian conflict in the Horn of Africa and Middle East developments.

Swiss-Italian border turns wild West

Rome for violations of exchange control regulations.

International gangs

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— Financial Times News-Features

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Government bonds recovered 1/4 point to close a net 1-1/8 point down Monday following January's U.K. wholesale price index, dealers said. Overall trading was subdued.

Market sentiment was depressed by challenges to the government's pay guidelines and fears about the money supply figures due later this week. Leading equities closed steady to slightly firmer while second-line stocks inclined softer. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 1.9 at 486.8.

Gold shares closed little changed from earlier levels. Australia were mixed while Canadians inclined harder.

Glaxo and Beecham each closed 5p higher while BATs rose 6p. GKN, Fisons and ICI put on between a penny and 2p.

In oils B.P. was up 6p and Shell 3p higher while banks held steady. Reed International finished 4p lower following adverse press comment.

Marks and Spencer, Lucas, Associated Cement, Turner and Newall and Plessey lost between a penny and 2p.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian D	Buying/selling
U.S. dollar	313/314
U.K. sterling	610/611
W. German mark	148.9/149
Swiss franc	158.4/159
French franc	64.1/64
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.2/36
Japanese yen (for every 100)	129.9/130
Dutch guilder	138.9/139
Belgian franc (for every ten)	96.2/96
Swedish crown	67.4/67

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